

VIZ SIGNATURE

A touching, character-rich vision of
an intriguing new world.

Living isn't easy in the lower levels of the Ring System, a floating civilization constructed when Earth was abandoned as a nature preserve. Sixteen-year-old Mitsu got a job washing windows for the wealthy residents of the upper levels after his father, also a window washer, fell from his tether. Now Mitsu's been asked to man an illegal craft that's descending to the surface of the earth. But it seems everyone in this divided society has a secret agenda. Mitsu alone must decide if he's ready to take the journey of a lifetime.

www.sigikki.com

Hisae Iwaoka is the creator of several one-shot manga, including *Hana Boro* (Flower Cookies) and *Shiro Kumo* (White Clouds), both of which were serialized in *IKKI* magazine. Her art installations have been displayed internationally in the group show "Tokyo Girls Bravo," curated by Takashi Murakami. *Saturn Apartments* is her most recent series.

SIGIKKI

saturn apartments

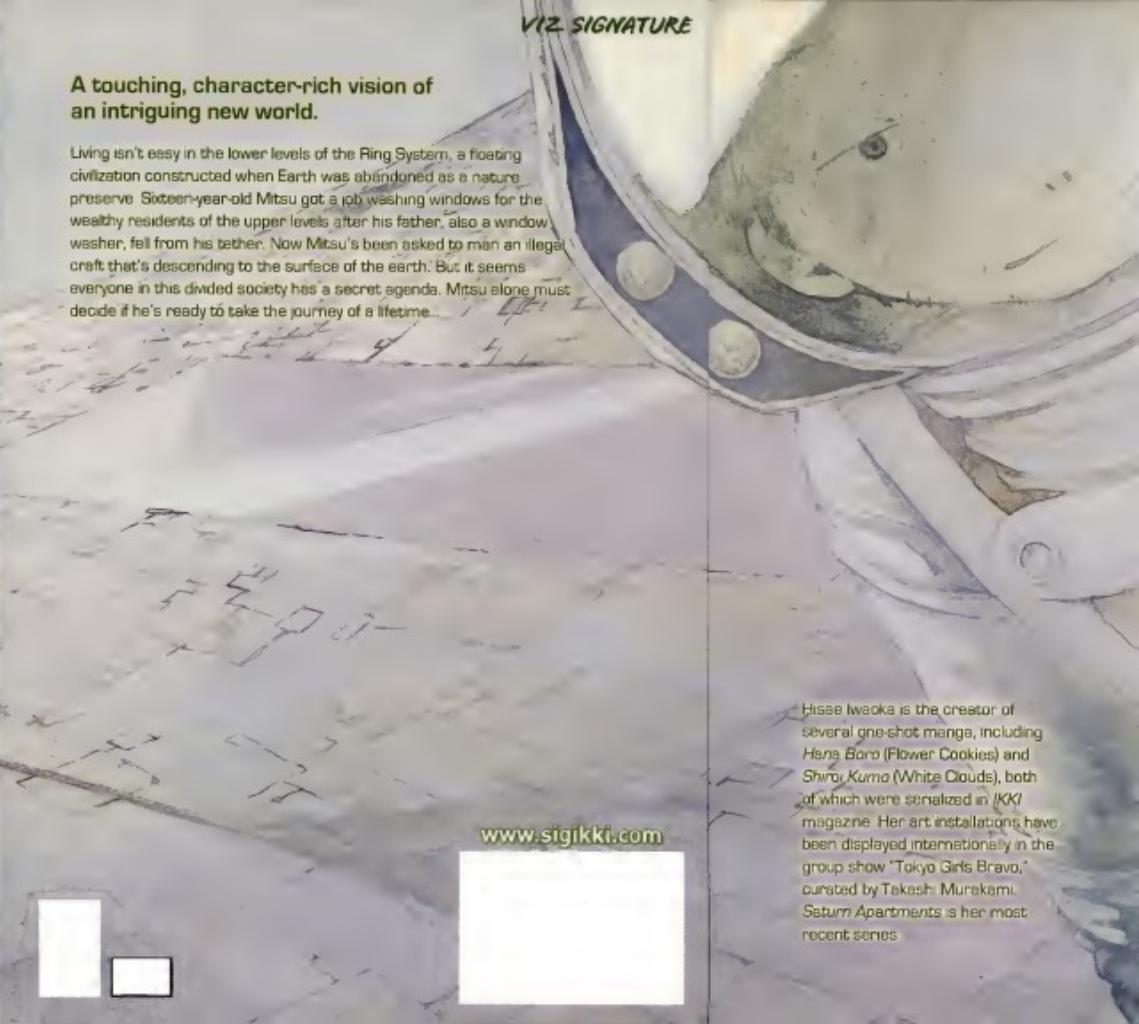
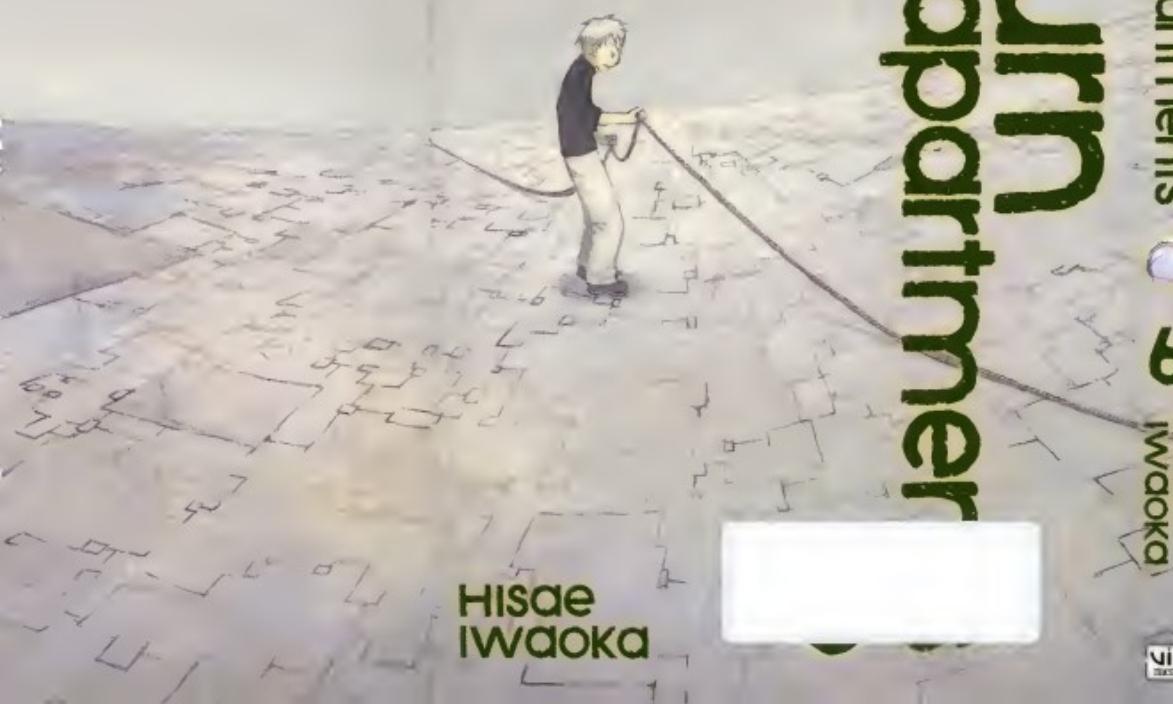
6

HISAE
IWAOKA

viz
COMICS

HISAE
IWAOKA

Saturn apartments



Saturn
apartments 6
HISAE IWAOKA



saturn apartments 6

FLOOR 45. THE GUIDING THREAD 003

FLOOR 46. THE SHIP YOU WILL RIDE 023

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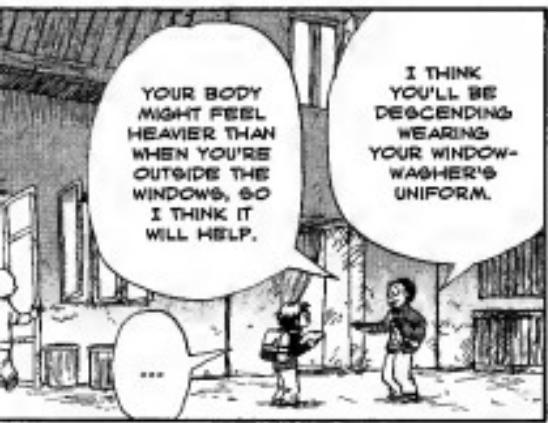
floor 45: the guiding thread

OH?



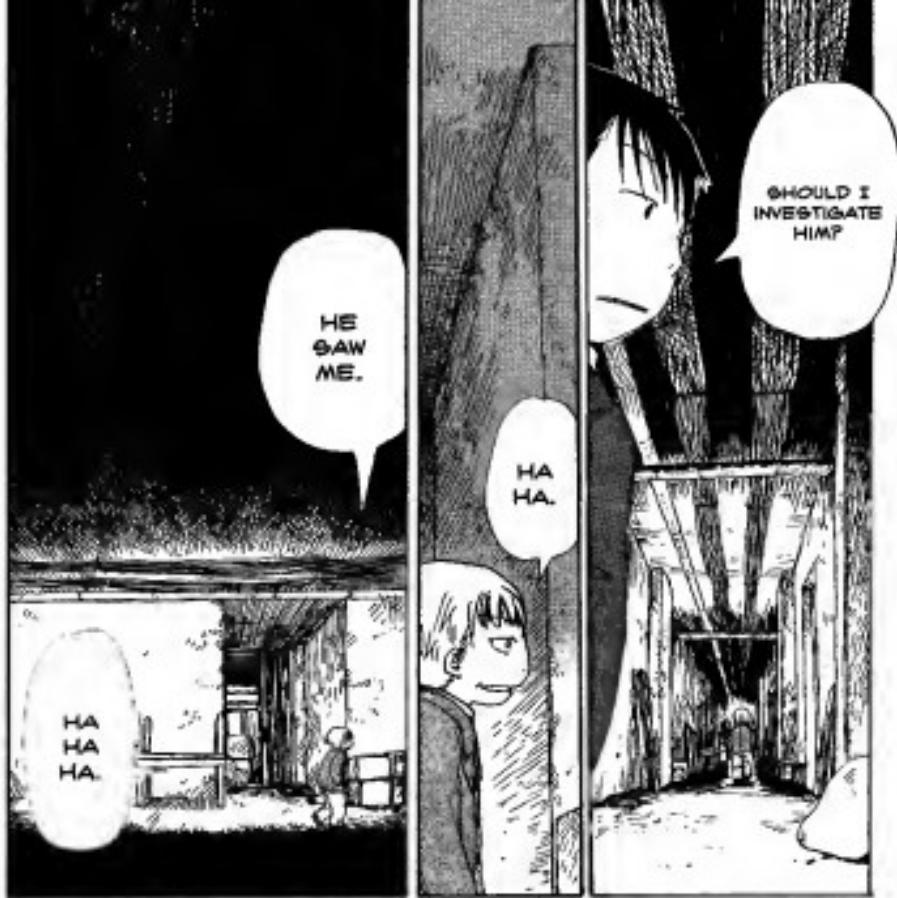




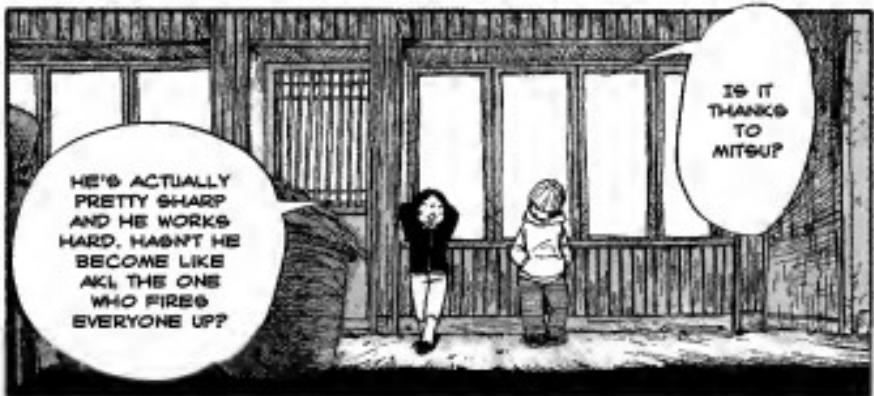






























I was surprised...

WAH.

RUMBLE

WAH.

STOP IT.

...at the words that spilled from my mouth.

I really do like her.



floor 46: the ship you will ride







OH, YUUDAI!

BUT ONLY
UPPER-LEVEL
RESIDENTS
WILL BE
ALLOWED ON
THE VEHICLE.

YEAH,
RIGHT.

WE MAY
EVENTUALLY
BE ABLE TO
DESCEND TO
THE SURFACE.

WE'LL BE
INVESTIGATING
THE EARTH'S
SURFACE.

AH, SORRY.
I SHOULD'VE
LET YOU
SLEEP.

YOU'VE
GOT SO
MUCH
ENERGY.

YOU
OVERCAME
SO MANY
OBSTACLES TO
GET THIS FAR.

I BET
YOU'LL BE
CHOOSEN TO
GO TO THE
SURFACE.

OH, YOU'RE
LAUGHING, BUT
THE RUMORS
ARE THAT
THINGS ARE
FINE DOWN
THERE.

HEH
HEH
HEH...

WE DON'T
KNOW WHAT
IT'S BEEN
CONTAMINATED
WITH, AND
YOU'D STILL
WANT IT?

I'D LOVE
THAT!

OH, WE MAY BE
ABLE TO GET
SOME SOIL
FROM THE
SURFACE AS A
SOUVENIR.

I DON'T
MIND...

YOU
AND
ME....

WE'LL GO
FIRST AND
MAKE A NEW
WORLD FOR
THOSE
WHO'LL
FOLLOW US.

A FRESH
NEW LAND
WHERE
THERE'S NO
UPPER OR
LOWER
LEVELS...
YES!

I HOPE WE
CAN LIVE ON
THE SURFACE
SOMEDAY.

HEY,
YUADAL

VEAH...
THAT'LL BE
WONDERFUL...

...AND
THE THIRD
PERSON
TO BE!

But
Makie...

Oh, no.
He was
tired.

Z.Z.Z.

WHAT
YOU'RE
FROM THE
LOWER
LEVELS?

The most
wonderful
thing is the
time the two
of us spend
together.



WELL, BUT IF I DON'T DO MY BEST NOW, I MAY BE TAKEN OFF THE PROJECT...

YOU SPENT A WEEK AT THE LAB, BUT YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL...

OH? YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED?

G
OOLG
BOOG

WHAT IS IT?

I HAVE GOOD NEWS FOR YOU, BUT I'M NOT GONNA TELL YOU.

IF YOU CAN'T KEEP YOUR PROMISES, YOUR WORK WILL BE AFFECTED TOO.

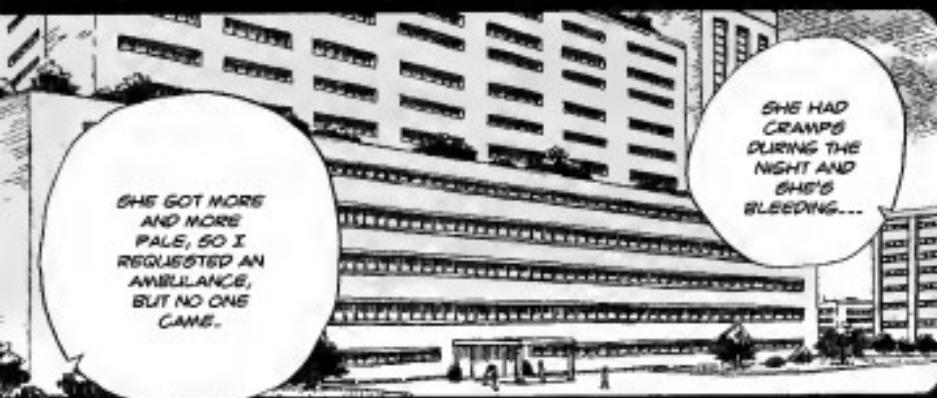
...THAT YOUD CHANGE EVERY DAY AND EAT YOUR MEALS.
TOP
BUT YOU PROMISED ME....

YESS.

I'M SORRY.

We were finally blessed with a baby.





Yes, we
waited.
How
long
did we
wait?

WE'VE KEPT
YOU WAITING.

GOOD, THE
CHAIRMAN
OF THAT
COMPANY IS
GOING TO
SURVIVE.

There are so
many people,
but they
pretend not
to see us.

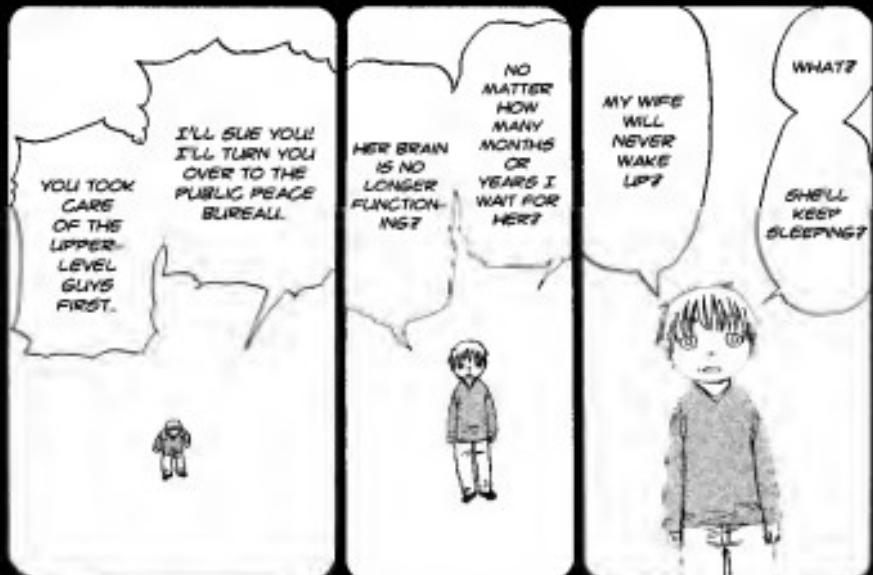
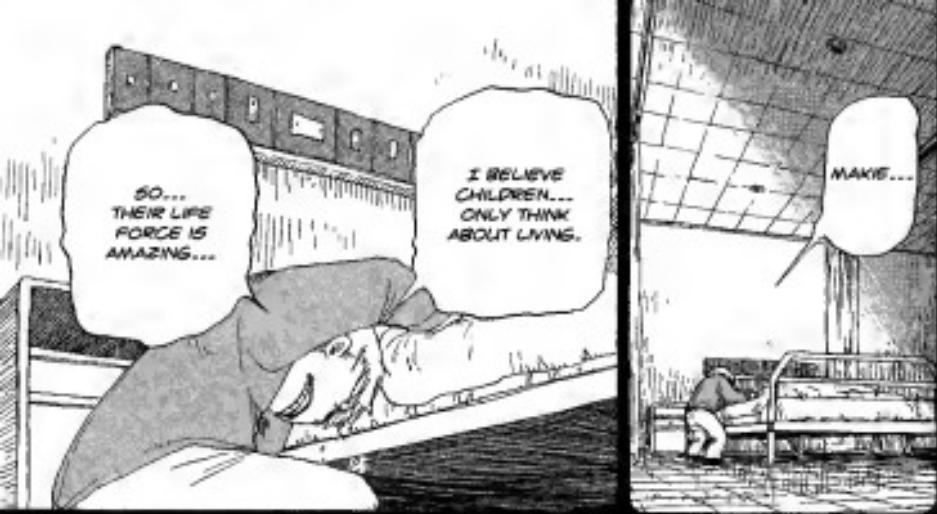
THINGS
ARE
FINE
HERE TOO.
US
TOO.

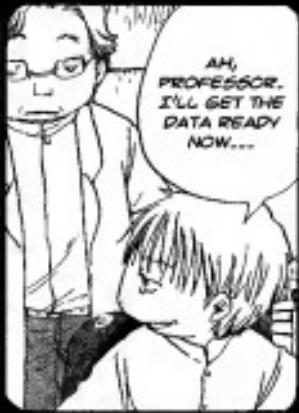
She's
asleep
now.

My wife
almost died
"due to
hemorrhagic
shock."

...had
already
lost his
life.

The
baby...









MR. NISHIMARU,
IT'S TIME FOR
YOU TO GO.

WHAT DO
WE MEAN?

COME GET
YOUR
WIFE...

A fake
sky...

So Makie
isn't
Makie
anymore?



WHAT CAN
I DO HERE
ALL BY
MYSELF....



THE UPPER
LEVELS. THE
LOWER
LEVELS. WHO
PREPARED
THESE
RECEPTACLES?

No...
I am not
alone...



I REMEMBERED
MANY THINGS
ON MY WAY
HERE TODAY.

MAKIE...

THANK
YOU, AS
ALWAYS.

SHE'S FINE,
AS ALWAYS.

BUT THEY
ARE THINGS
THAT ARE
ALWAYS ON
MY MIND.





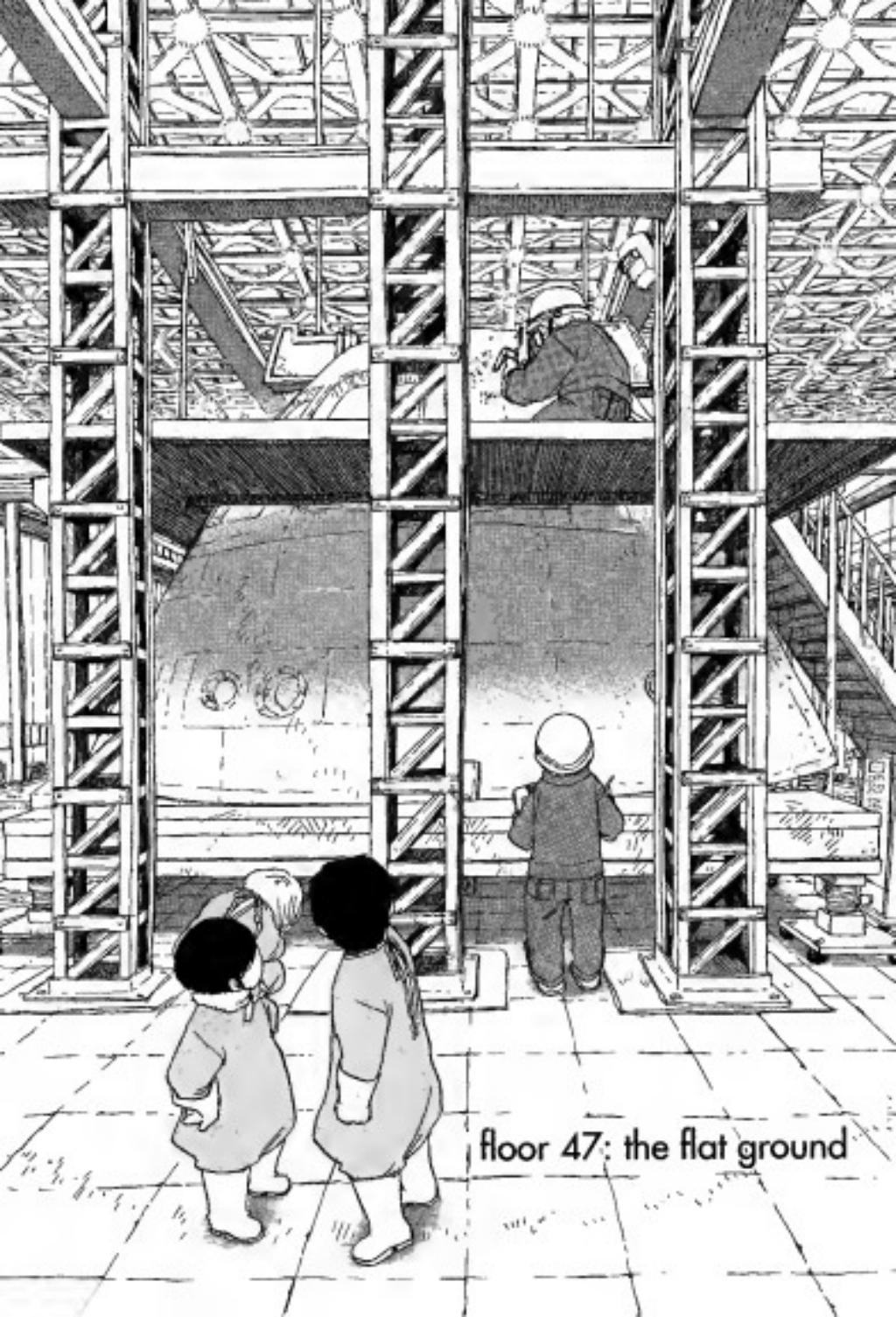
THE
FUTURE
IS FULL
OF
HOPE.



DON'T WORRY.
I'LL CHANGE
MY CLOTHES
AND DESCEND
TO THE
SURFACE.







floor 47: the flat ground



THINGS ARE GOING PRETTY WELL.



HE CAME UP WITH THIS PROJECT.

WHAT DOES HE DO?

I'M NISHIMARU.

EXCUSE ME. I CAME TO SAY HELLO BUT I GOT DISTRACTED.

PAT



HAH.

WE'RE GOING TO USE IT FOR A BETTER FUTURE.

SPARKLE

WHAT THE HECK.



WHAT'RE YOU GONNA USE IT FOR?



THIS... ISN'T A CAR.











SO I
CANNOT
ABANDON
MY WORK
AND GO.



YOU'LL NEVER
GET ANOTHER
CHANCE.



SO WHO
ACCEPTS
YOU?

MY JOB
PROTECTS
THE RING
SYSTEM AS WELL.

WINDOW
WASHERS
KEEP THE
OUTSIDE WALLS
IN GOOD
REPAIR.

WHO'S
FORCING
YOU TO
ENDURE
THAT JUST
TO CLEAN
WINDOWS?

THE
LOWER-
LEVEL
RESIDENTS
ARE JUST
BEING
DUPED.

WHO BELIEVES
THAT WINDOW
WASHERS
SUPPORT THE
EXISTENCE
OF THE RING
SYSTEM?

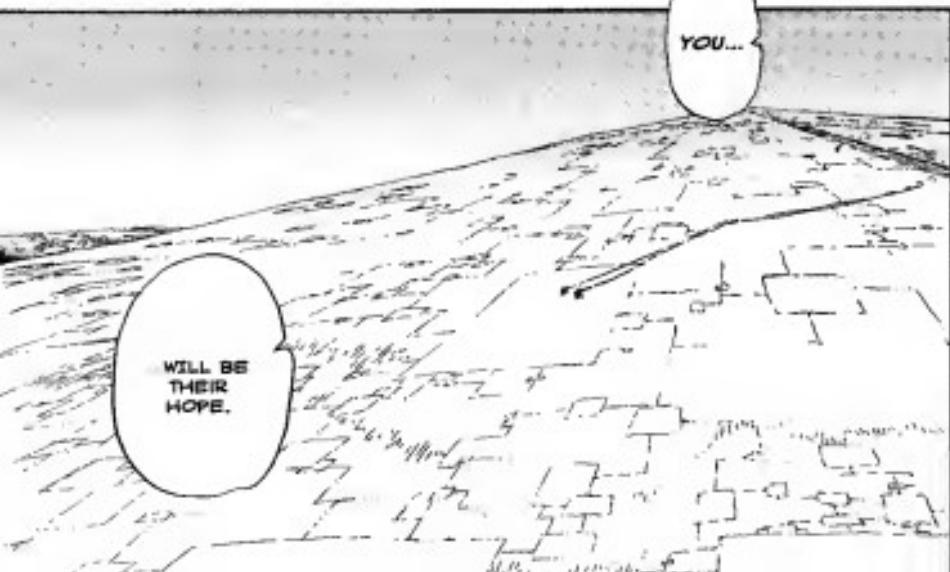
YOU'RE
BEING
FORCED TO
DO THAT JOB
BECAUSE
YOU'RE A
LOWER-LEVEL
RESIDENT!

SOMETHING
INSIGNIFICANT
LIKE WASHING
WINDOWS WILL
NOT TELL
OTHERS OF OUR
EXISTENCE.

OUR
VOICES
WILL NOT
BE HEARD.

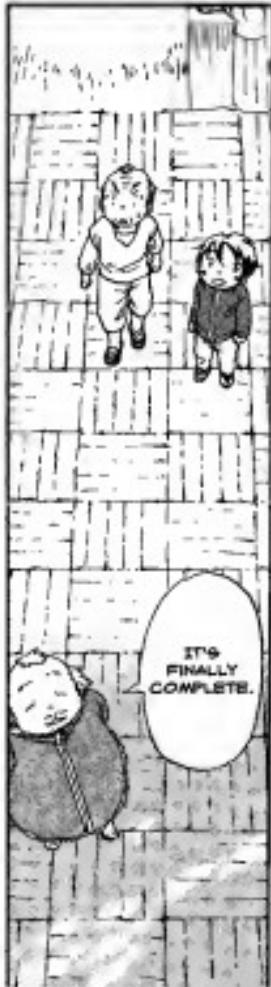
SO WE MUST
PROVE TO
EVERYONE...

...THAT
THERE'S NO
REASON WHY
WE'RE SHUT UP
IN THE LOWER
LEVELS!







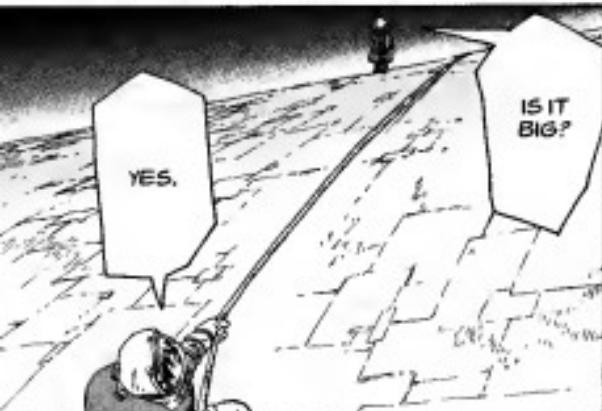


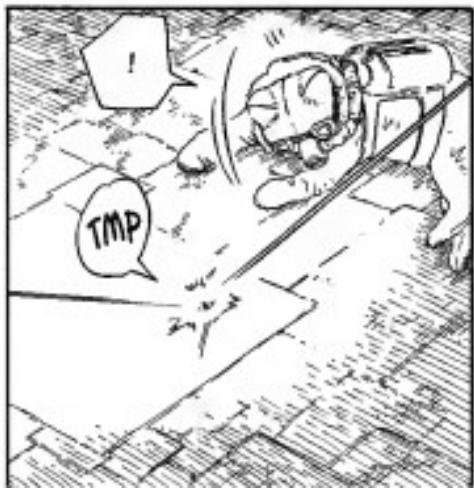
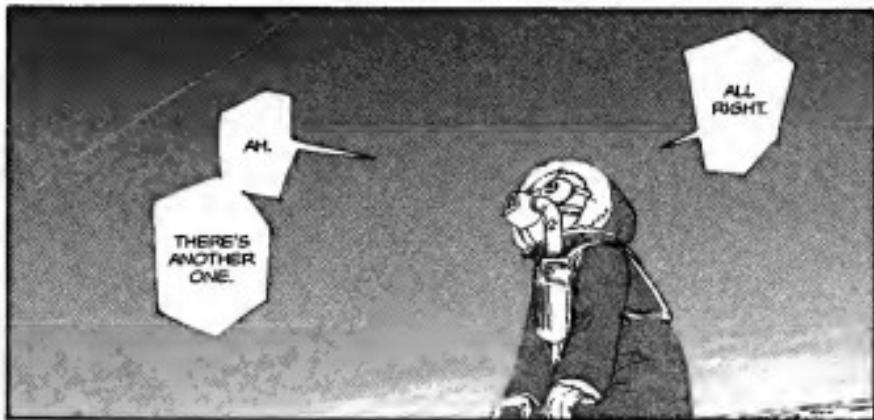














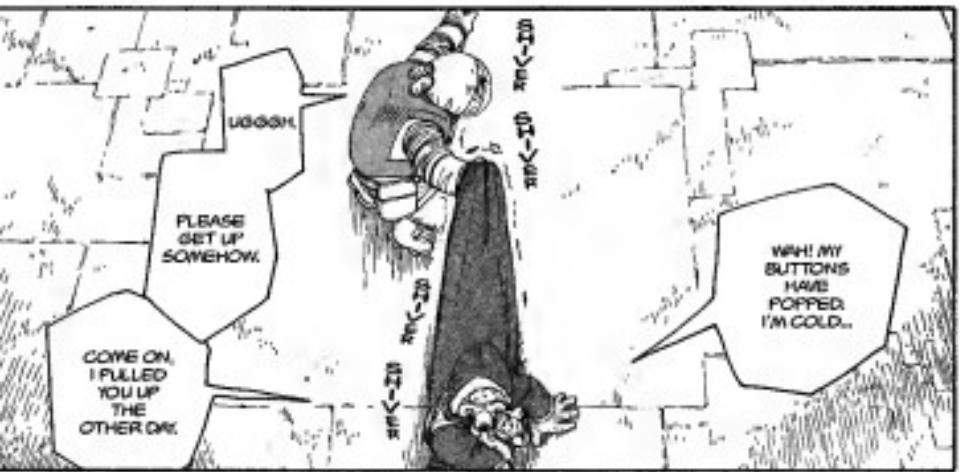


MIYUKI!!

ENNA

floor 48: hope







"I'LL ACCEPT YOU."



"BUT NOW YOU'RE
ALREADY WORKING
ALONGSIDE US."

"THAT,
YOU'VE
IMPROVED
A WHOLE
LOT."

"HE OFTEN
TALKS
ABOUT
MITSU."



"DON'T
RUSH
THINGS."



"YOU TWO HAVE
YOUR DREAMS."



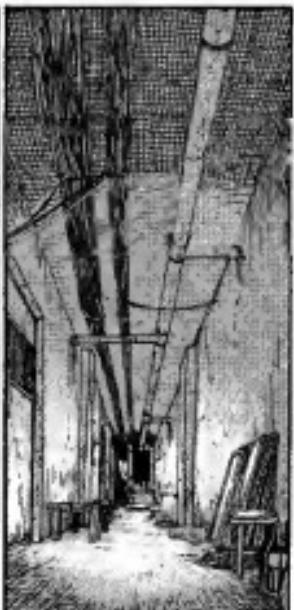
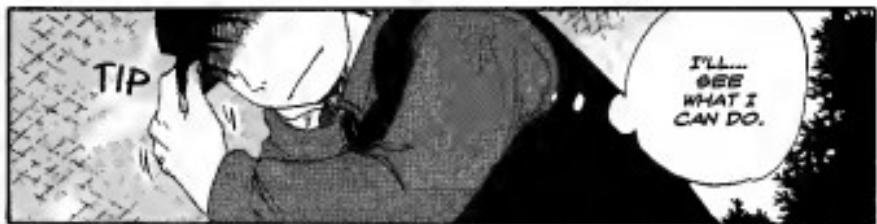


Now
I have
faith in
myself.

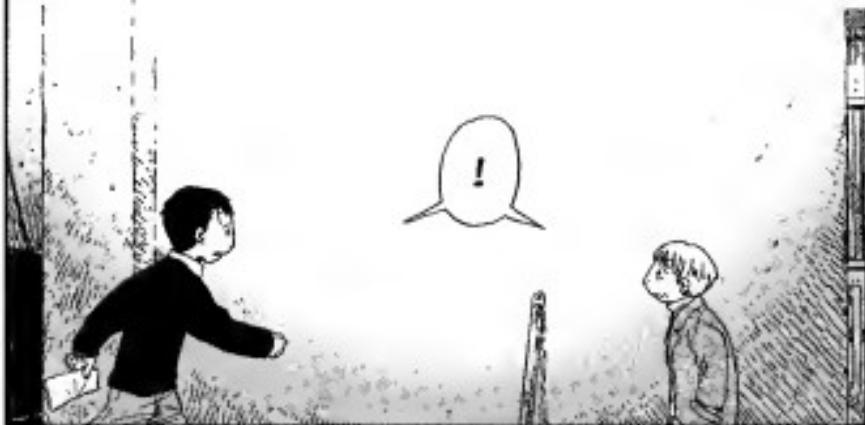
And I...

...can
give
hope to
others
as well.









...I OFTEN TALK WITH SOHTA, AND I ASSUMED HE WAS HOME...

UH...IT'S JUST...

YOU'VE GOT THE
RIGHT TO DO THAT?

DID YOU LOOK
INTO OUR
ROOM WITHOUT
PERMISSION
BECAUSE YOU
WORK FOR THE
PUBLIC PEACE
BUREAU?

THERE
WOULDN'T BE
THIS MISUNDER-
STANDING IF
HE WAS HERE.

HE ALWAYS
GETS HOME
LATE. HE'LL
BE HERE
SOON.

DOESN'T THAT
COUNT AS
A CLUB
ACTIVITY?

WE'RE ALL
EX-SCIENTISTS,
SO WE'RE
RESEARCHING
THINGS TO
KILL TIME.

WE'RE OUT OF
JOBS. THAT'S
WHY WE STAY
HERE.



BY THE
WAY,
TAMACHI
WAS
HERE THE
OTHER
DAY.

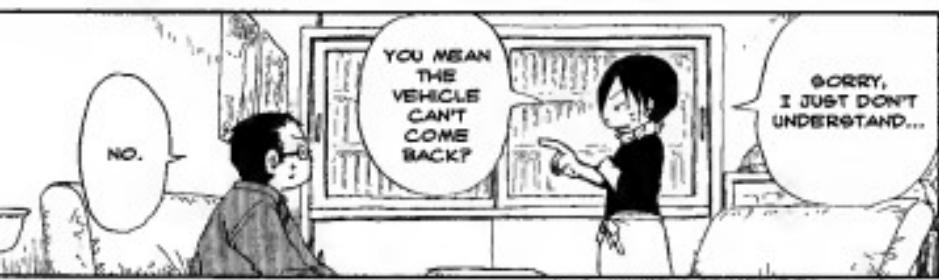


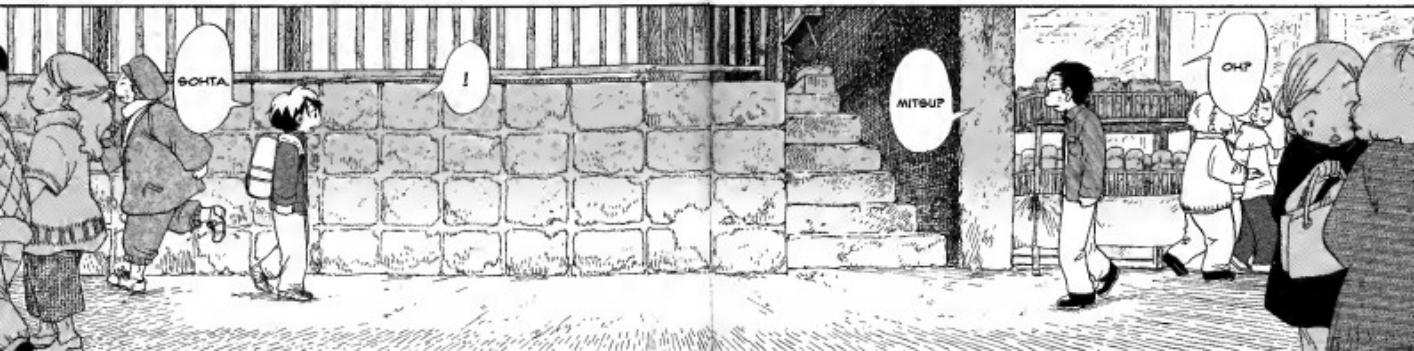




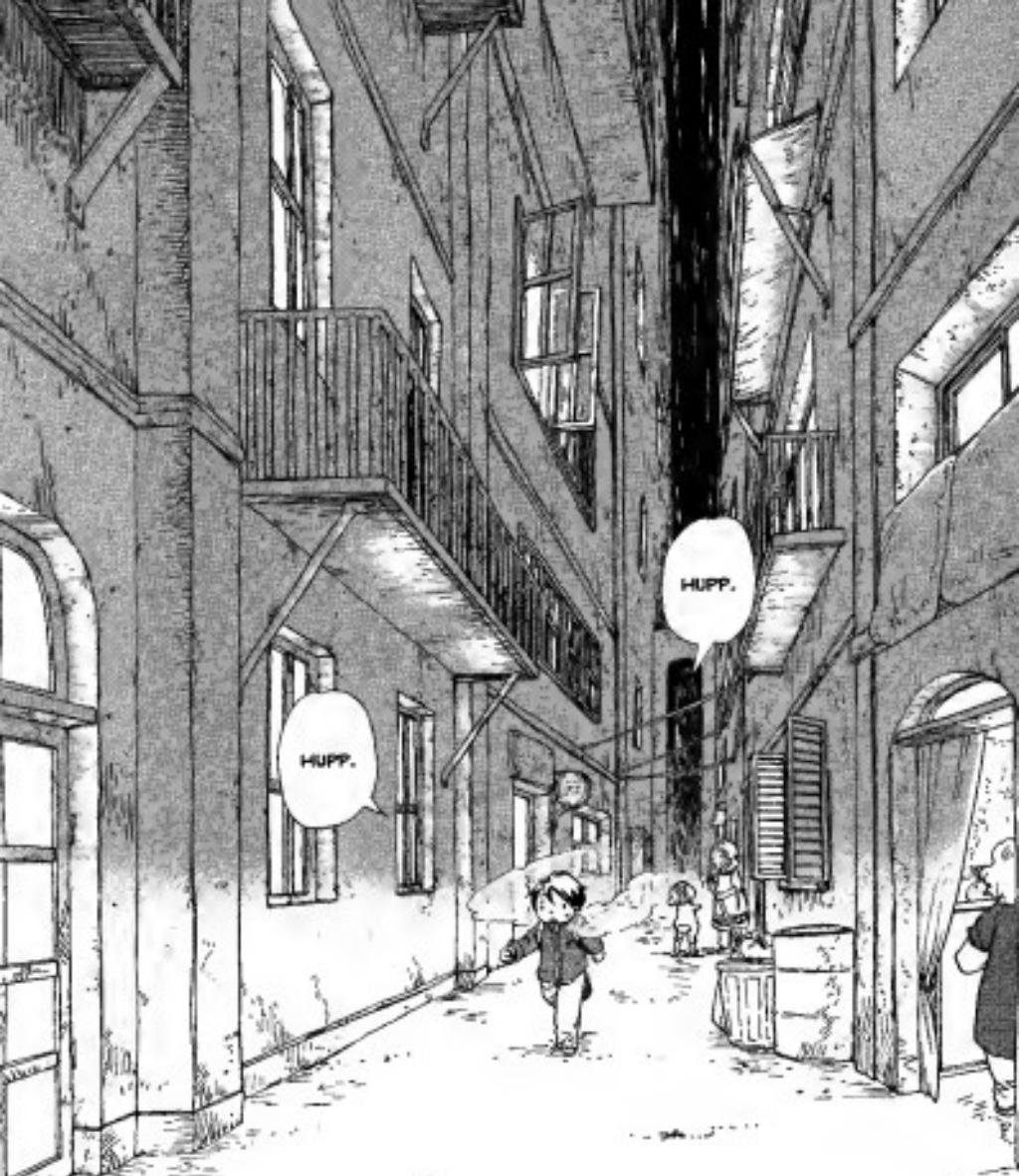












floor 49: looking at the shadows





WILL YOU BE
READY TO GO
ANYTIME?



YES.



HUPP.



HUPP.



MITSUB



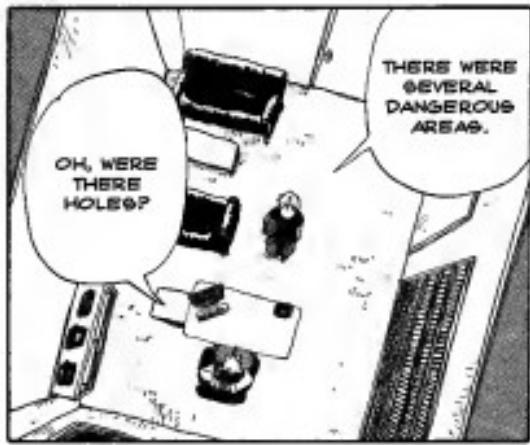
HUPP.

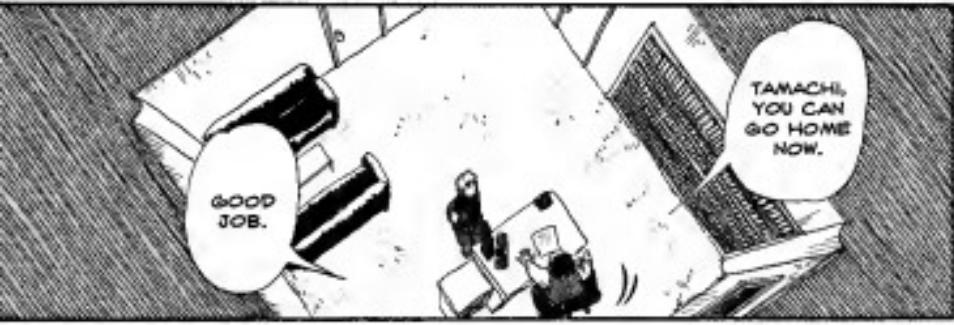


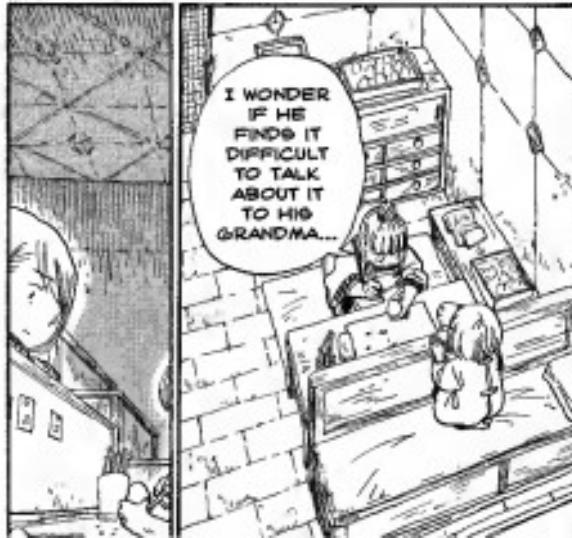
HUPP.



HUPP.

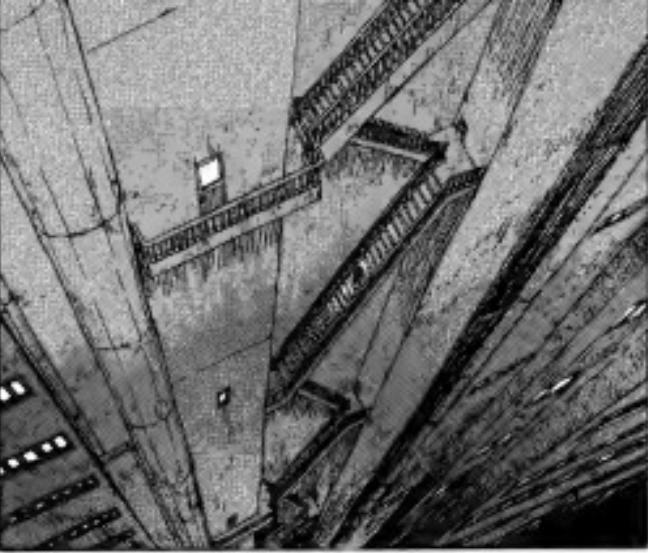














TAMACHI.



AND I'M
WAITING
TOO.

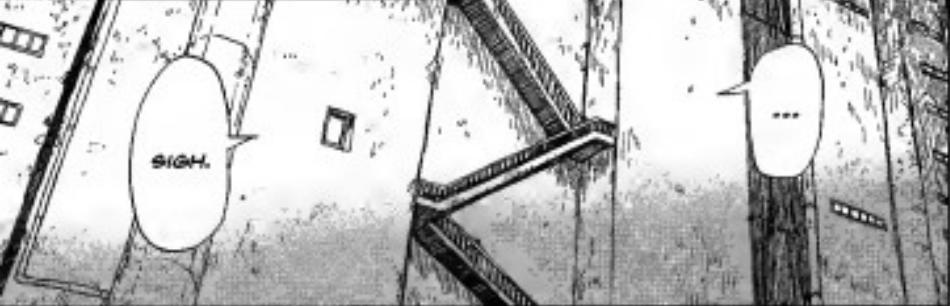


EVERYONE'S
WAITING.



WON'T
YOU
COME
BACK?

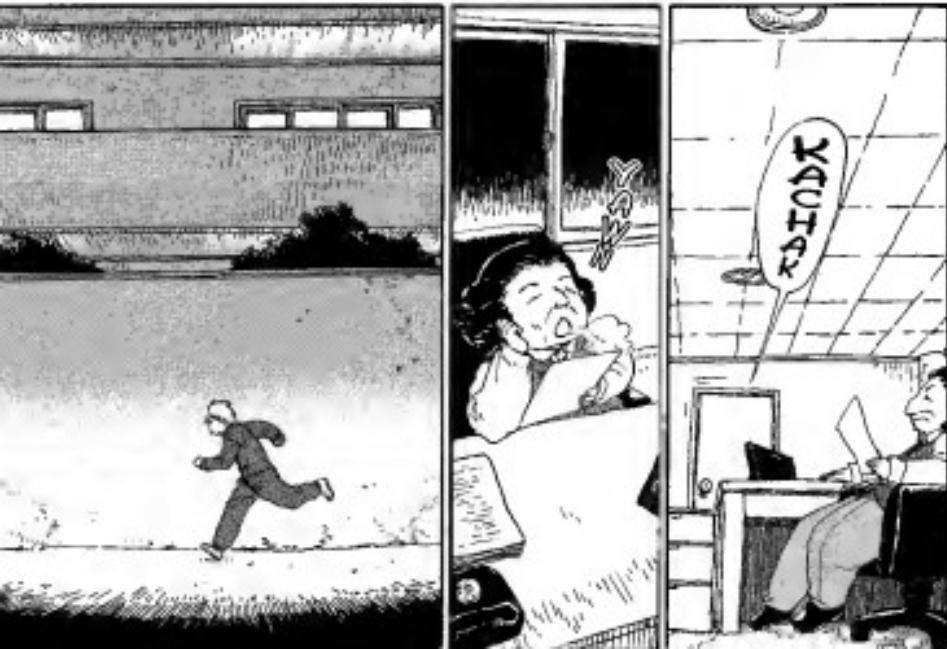
















...SO YOU
MUST BE
RETURNING TO
THE JOB YOU
LOVE AS A
WINDOW
WASHER.

BUT
YOU'RE
QUITTING...

That
place
there...

Yes.

Aki...

...SO YOU
MUST BE
RETURNING TO
THE JOB YOU
LOVE AS A
WINDOW
WASHER.

BUT
YOU'RE
QUITTING...

That
place
there...

Yes.

Aki...

...SO YOU
MUST BE
RETURNING TO
THE JOB YOU
LOVE AS A
WINDOW
WASHER.

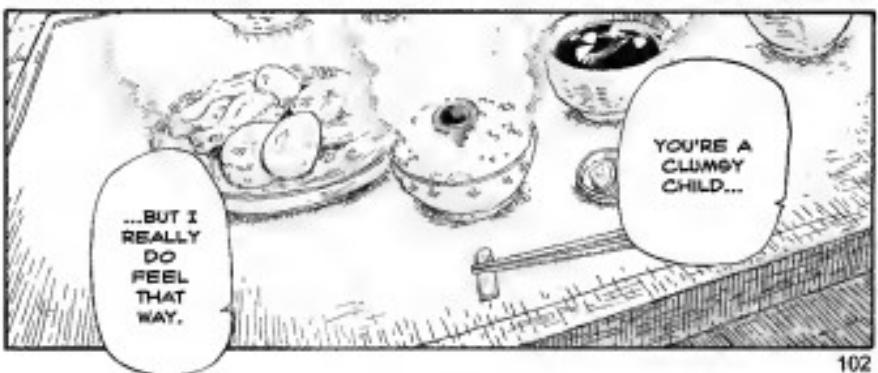
BUT
YOU'RE
QUITTING...

That
place
there...

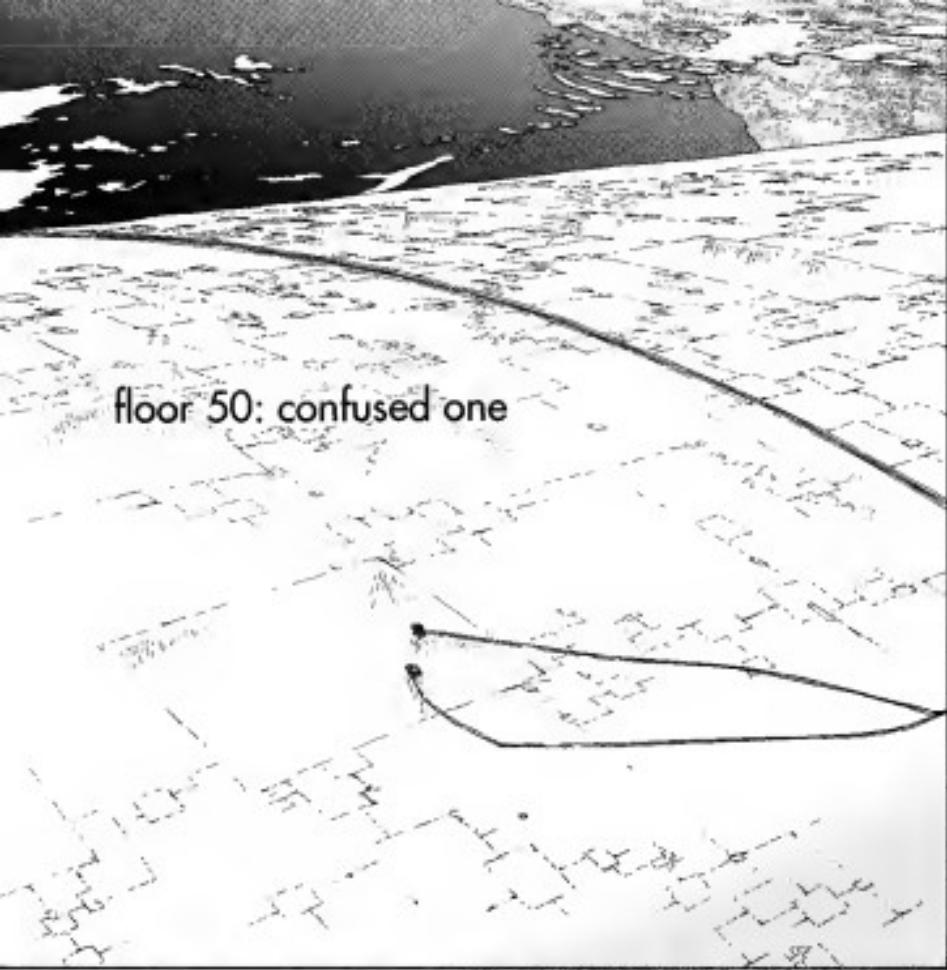
Yes.

Aki...





floor 50: confused one









I'M
GOING
TO
INSPECT
THIS
ROOM.



YOU'RE
JUST A
JUNIOR
PEACE
BUREAU
STAFF.

I KNEW
IT.

Hmph

!

HE
DOESN'T
KNOW...

IT'S NO USE
TRYING TO EARN
POINTS HERE.
I'LL COMPLAIN TO
YOUR SUPERIORS.

...THAT MY
PLACE WAS
INVESTIGATED
BECAUSE I
STOLE
CHEMICALS
FROM THE
RESEARCH
LAB.

IF YOU
UNDERSTAND,
GO HOME.

I WON'T
LEAVE.

HE'S NOT IN
A POSITION
TO BE ABLE
TO LOOK
THAT UP.

...I WORK FOR THE PUBLIC PEACE BUREAU. I'LL INVESTIGATE IF I'M SUSPICIOUS.

EVEN IF I AM JUNIOR STAFF AND A LOWER-LEVEL RESIDENT...

YOU WORK FOR THE PUBLIC PEACE BUREAU, YET YOU'RE AWARE OF YOUR STATUS AS A LOWER-LEVEL RESIDENT.

OHO...

I was in that position once too.

WHAT CAN YOU DO, WHEN YOU'RE ONLY BEING USED BY THE UPPER-LEVEL RESIDENTS?

THAT WAS ALL....

You can't do anything if you stay here.

WE'RE JUST LIVING OUR LIVES THE BEST WE CAN, DOING THE WORK WE WANT TO DO...



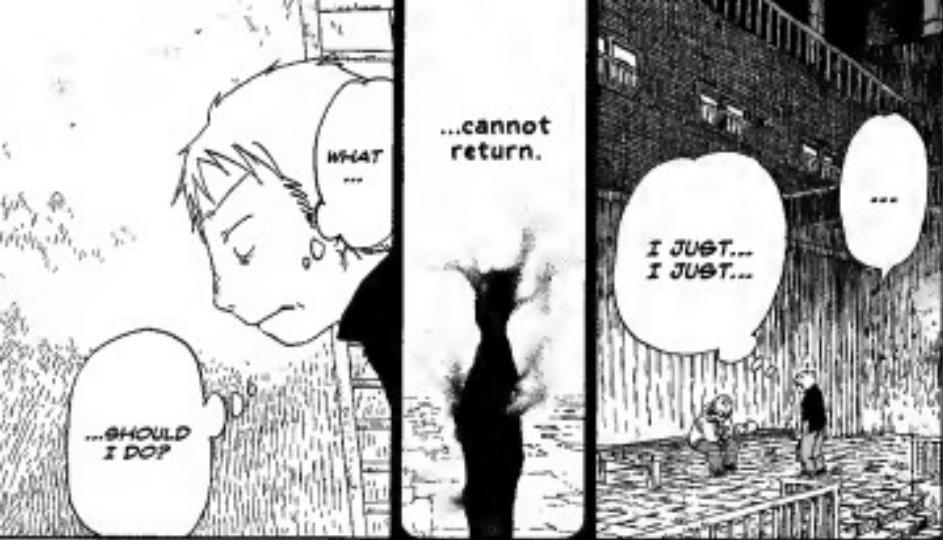




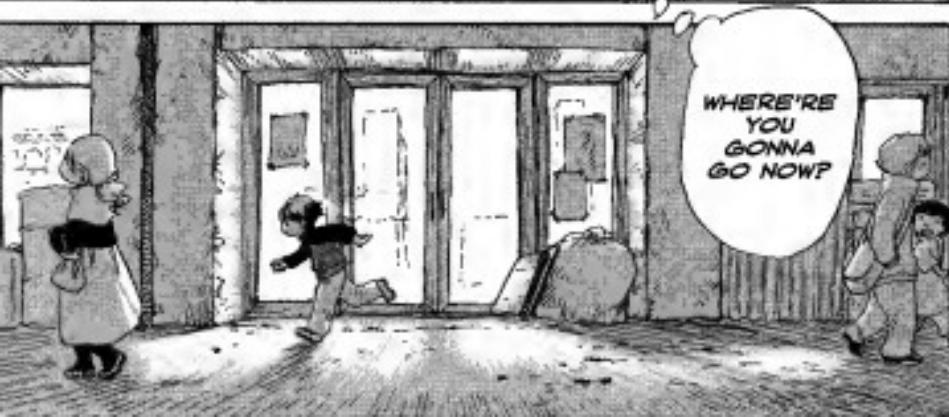








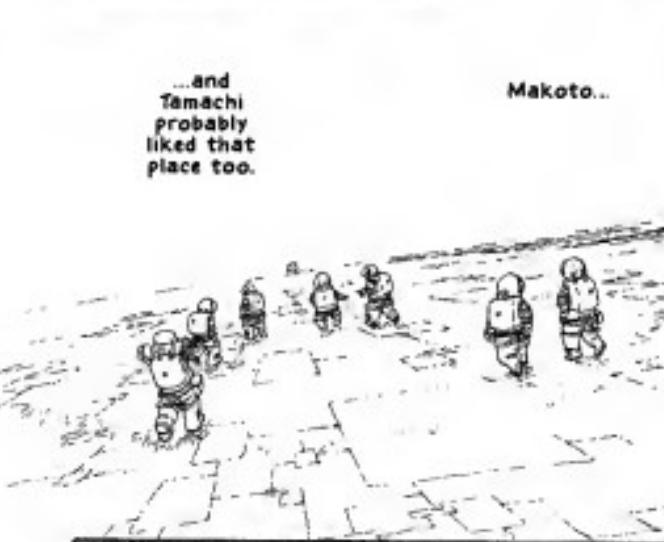






...and Tamachi probably liked that place too.

Makoto...



Actually...

Do I only like that place?

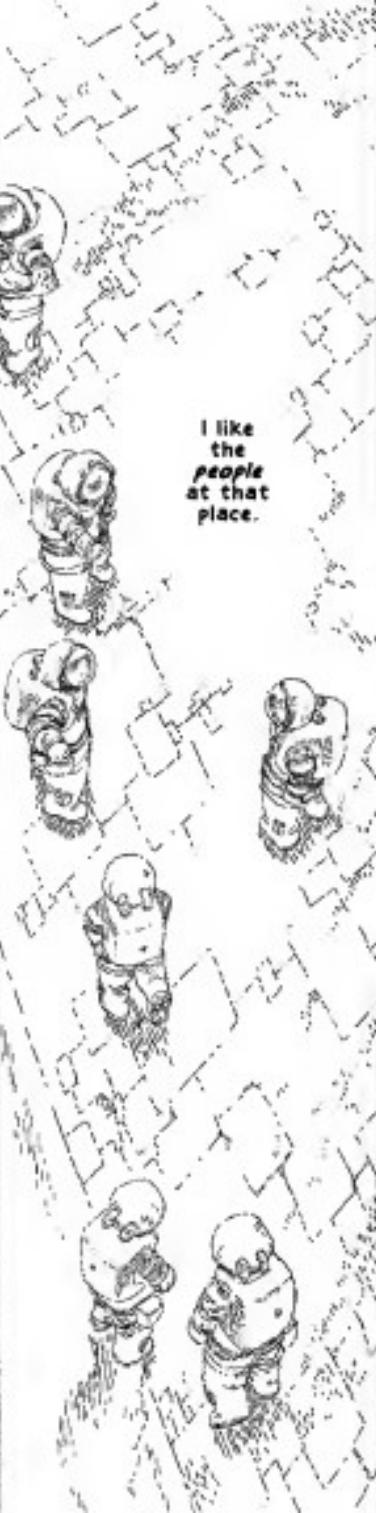




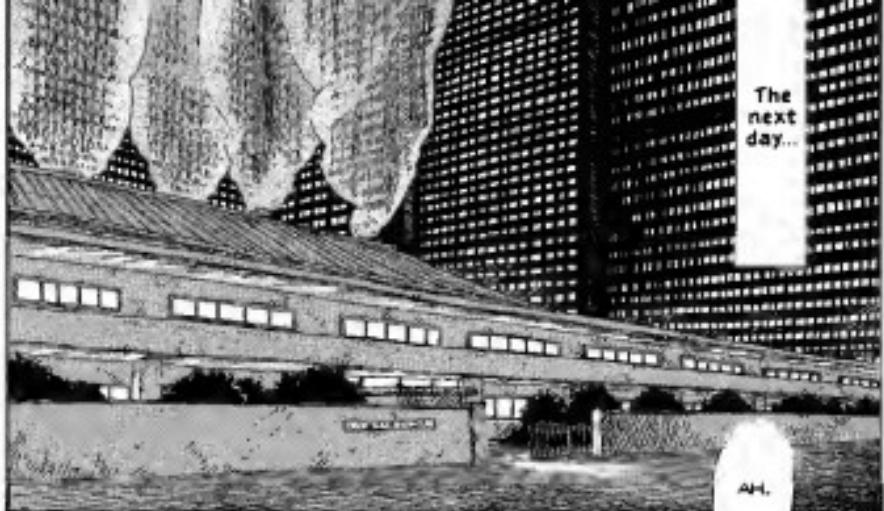
Hey.

That's
why I
don't
want to
leave it.

Dad...



I like
the
people
at that
place.



LET ME KNOW
WHEN YOU
WANT TO
RETURN.

YOU'RE
GOING
TO
LEAVE THINGS
AS
THEY ARE?

IF YOU
CAN
RETURN,
THAT IS.



THANK
YOU...SO
MUCH...
UNTIL
TODAY.

YES.

SEE
YOU.

S
O
H
T
A
!

SOHITA,
WHERE'S
SOTHATA?

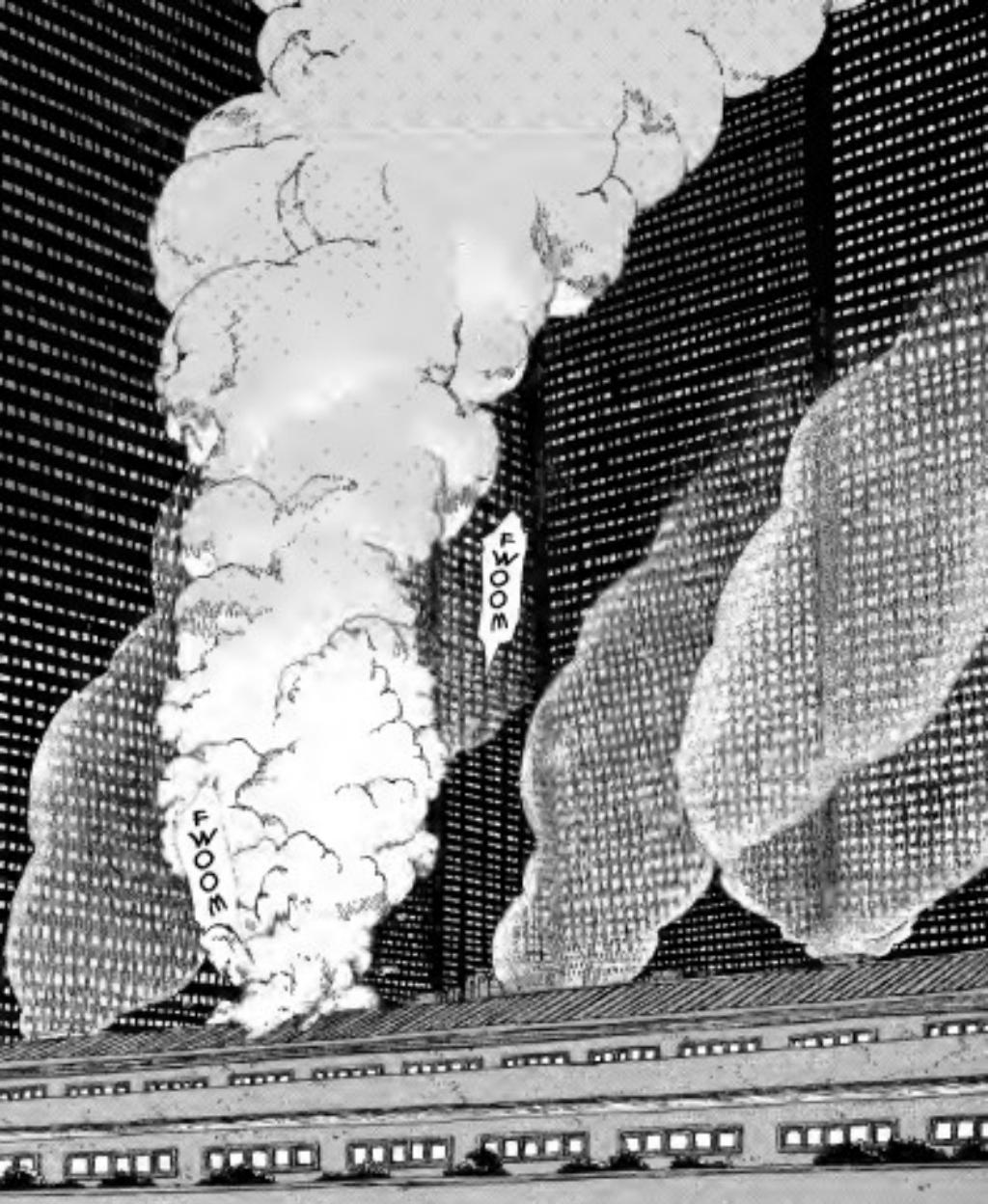
UH, I'LL
TELL HIM
LATER...

UH, I
HEARD
YOU'RE
QUITTING.
IS IT
TRUE?

YES,
I'M
SORRY.

HEY,
TAMACHI.





floor-51: smoke





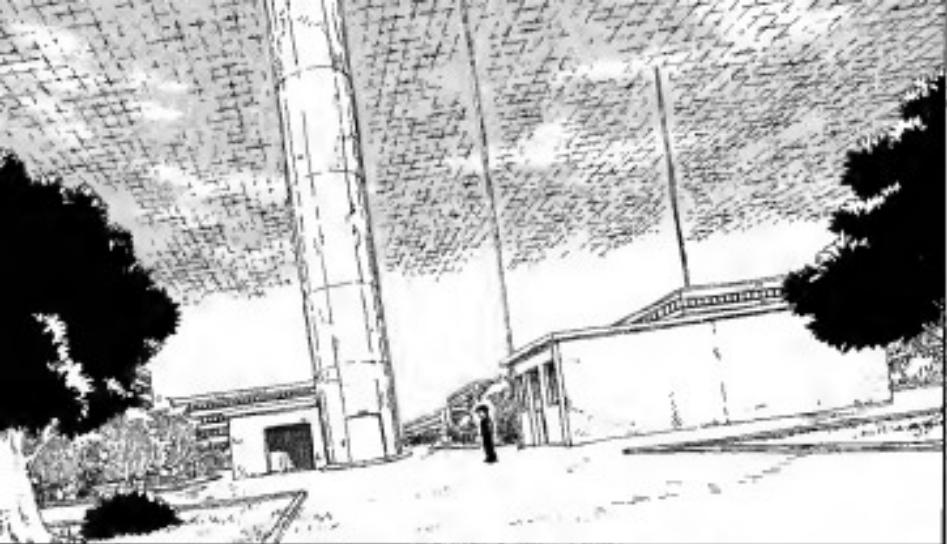


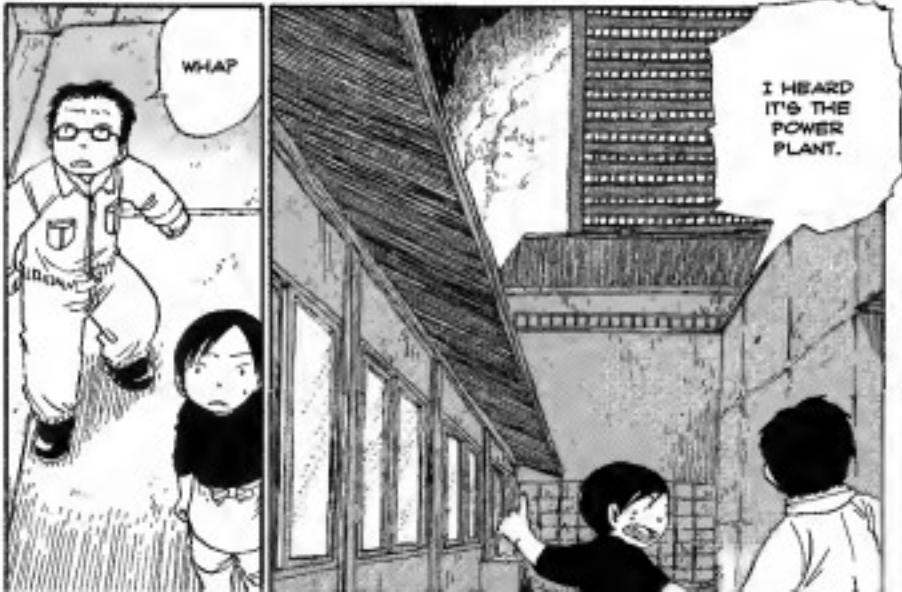
OH
MY...



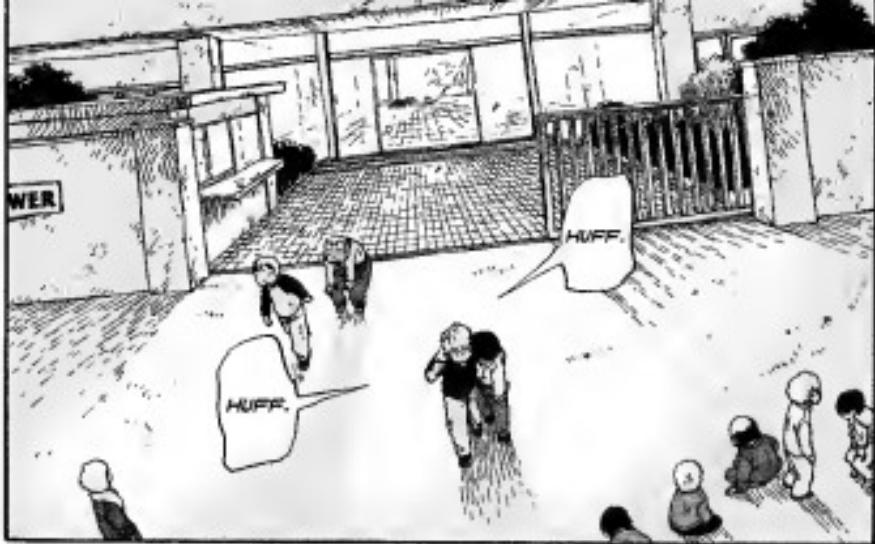












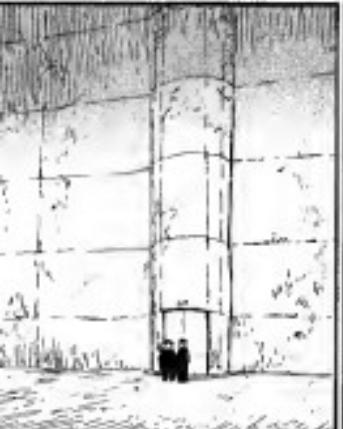
...to save
anyone?

Aki.
Will I be
able...

HEY.



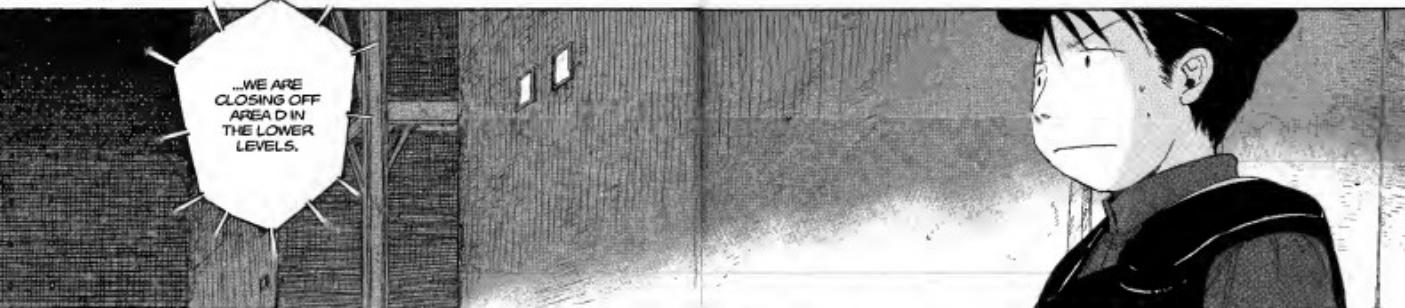
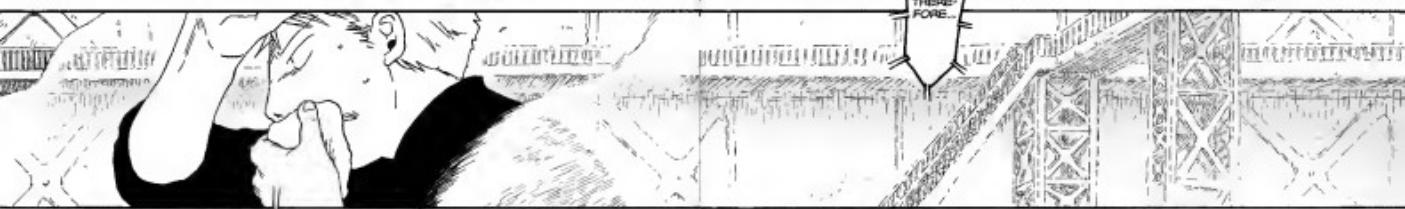






BEEEEEEEP . . .

A LARGE
FIRE IS
BURNING IN
THE LOWER
LEVELS.



...WE ARE
CLOSING OFF
AREA D IN
THE LOWER
LEVELS.



YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO GO TO THE MIDDLE AND UPPER LEVELS, OR TO OTHER AREAS IN THE LOWER LEVELS.

I REPEAT,



THEY LOCKED US IN...

THAT INCLUDES US.



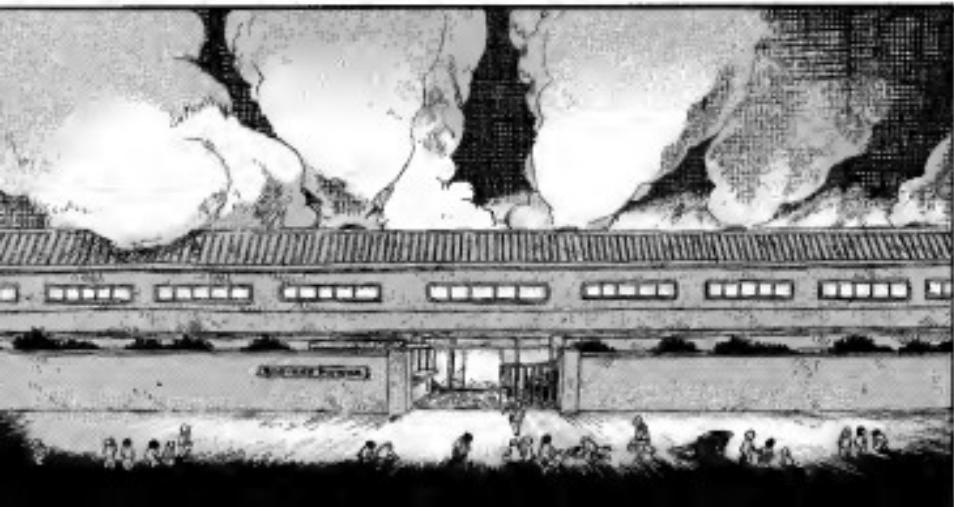
WHERE'S MR. NISHIMARU?

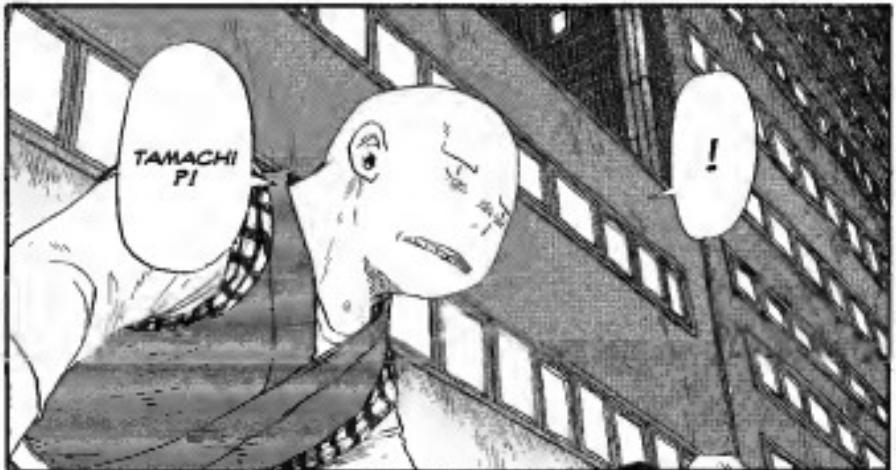
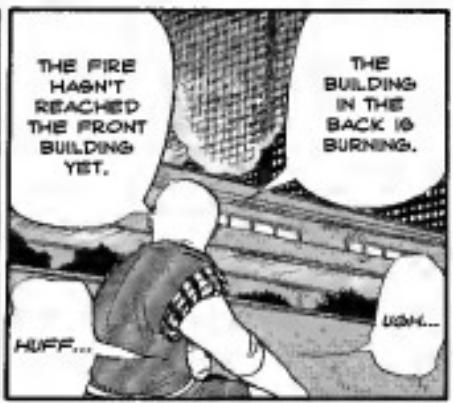
OH?



CLOSING OFF...

TO KEEP DAMAGES TO A MINIMUM...



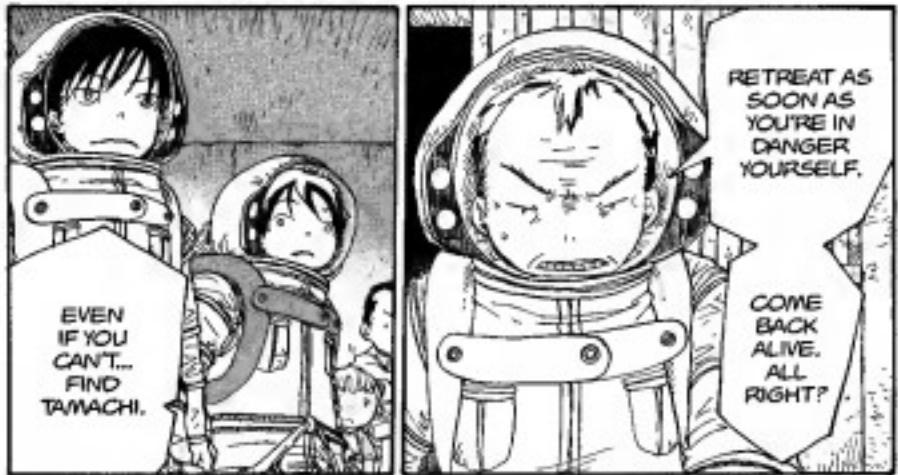


floor 52: confusion

TAMACHI
MIGHT STILL
BE INSIDE
THE BURNING
BUILDING.

EVERYONE
COME TO
THE POWER
PLANT AND
HELP.



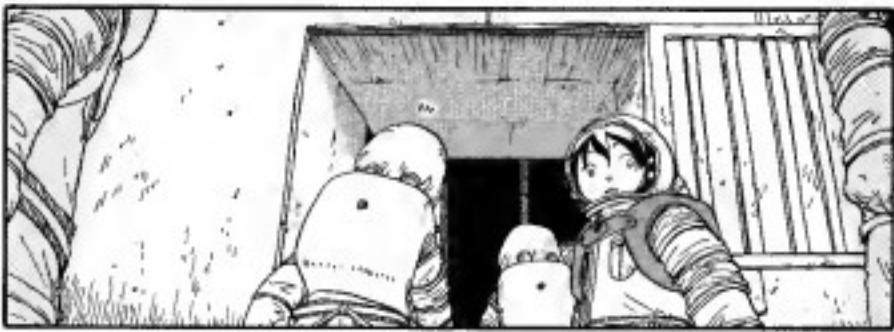


KAGEYAMA
SAYS
TAMACHI
IS STILL INSIDE.

WE'RE
GOING
TO THE
POWER
PLANT.

WE'RE ALL
ABOUT TO
LEAVE NOW.









HEY.

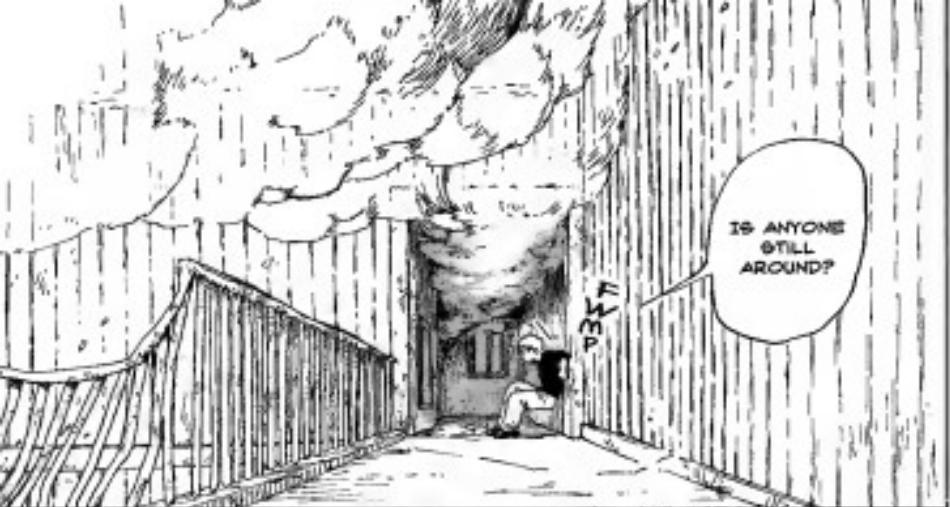


MR.
KAGEYAMA?
AND...ALL
THE WINDOW
WASHERS?



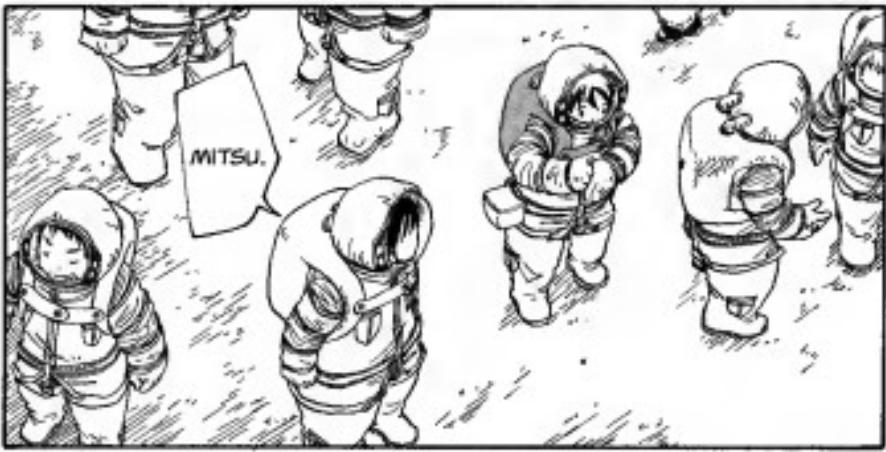


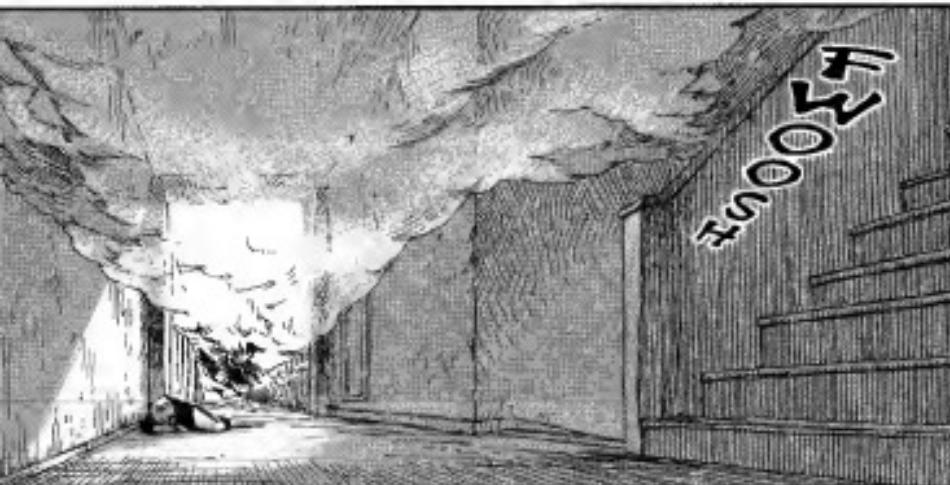
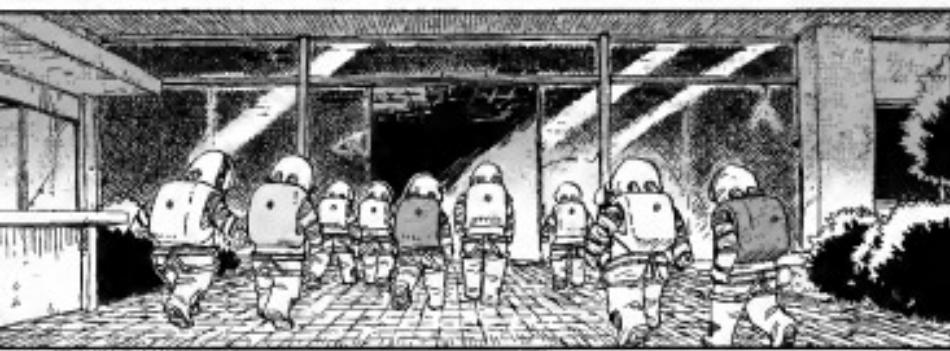


















...in order
to provide
equal
treatment
for the
upper and
lower
levels.

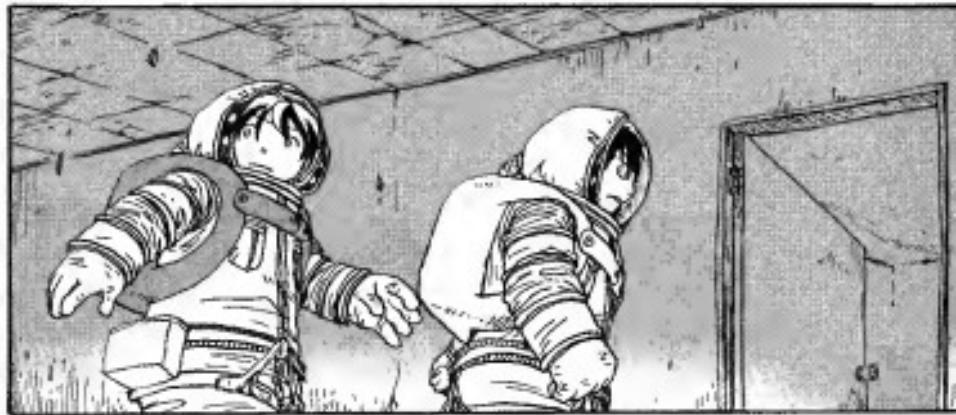
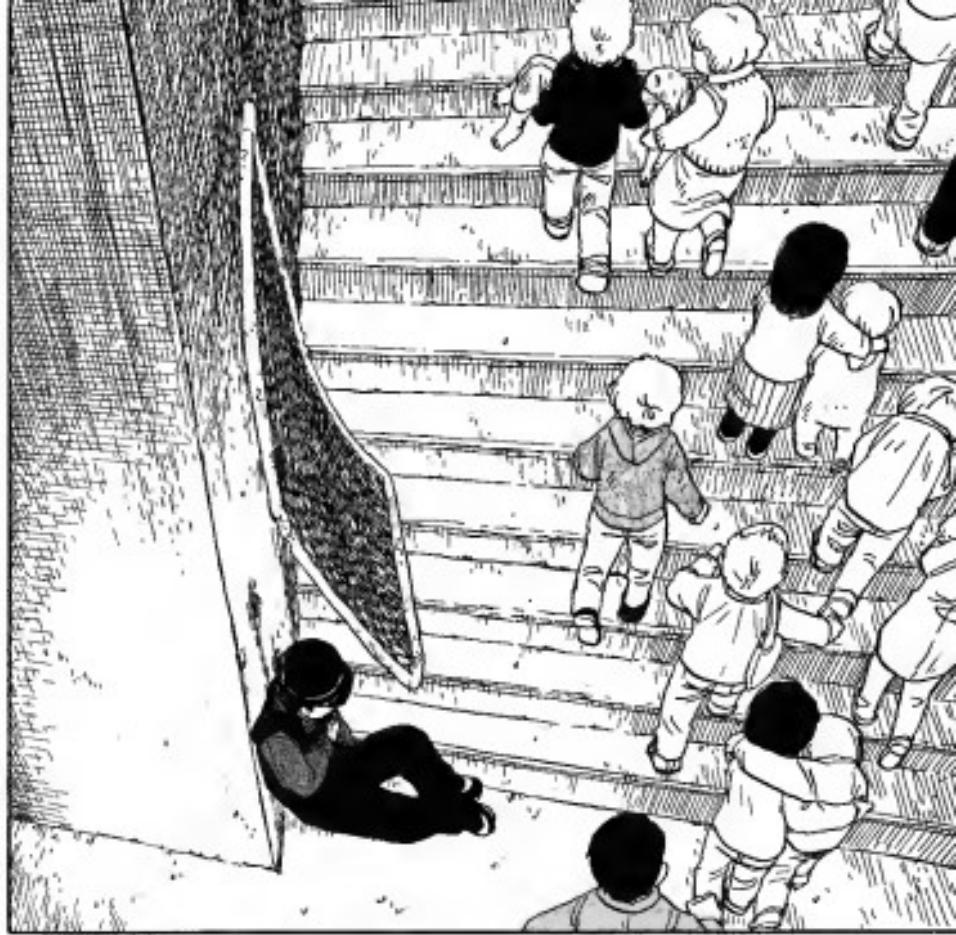


I wanted
to work
for the
Public
Peace
Bureau...



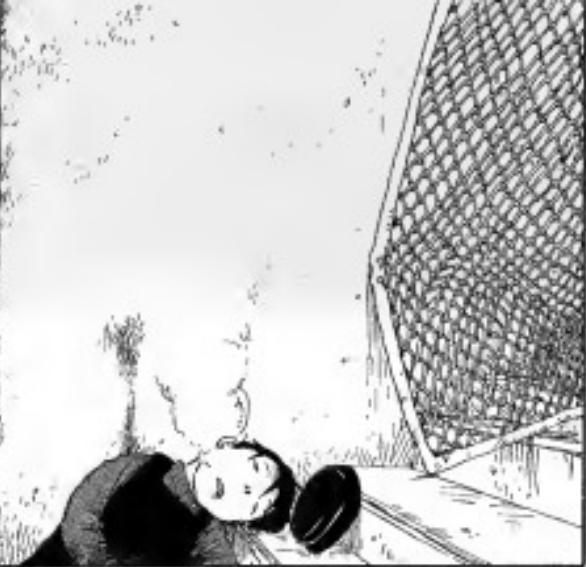










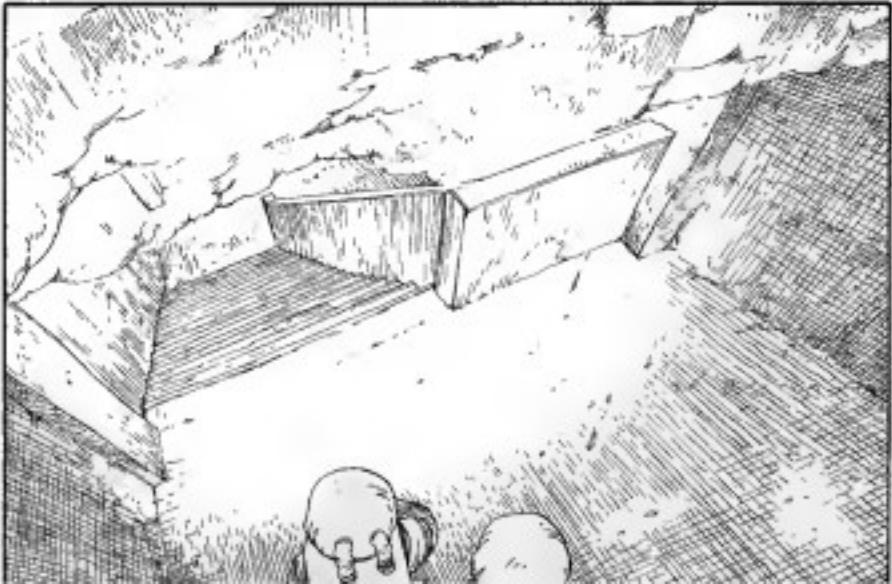


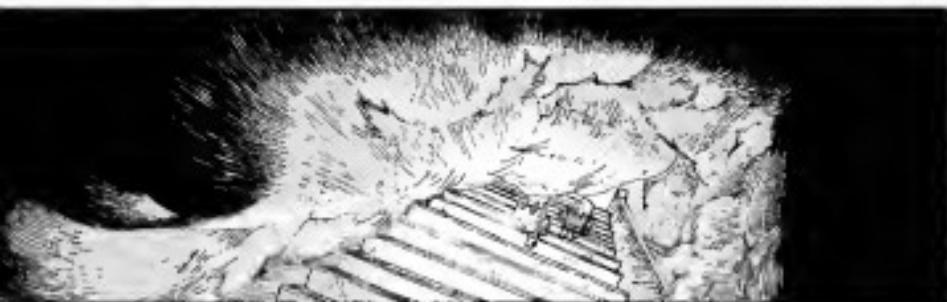




THIS YOUNG
MAN MIGHT'VE
BEEN KILLED
BY AN
UPPER-LEVEL
RESIDENT.

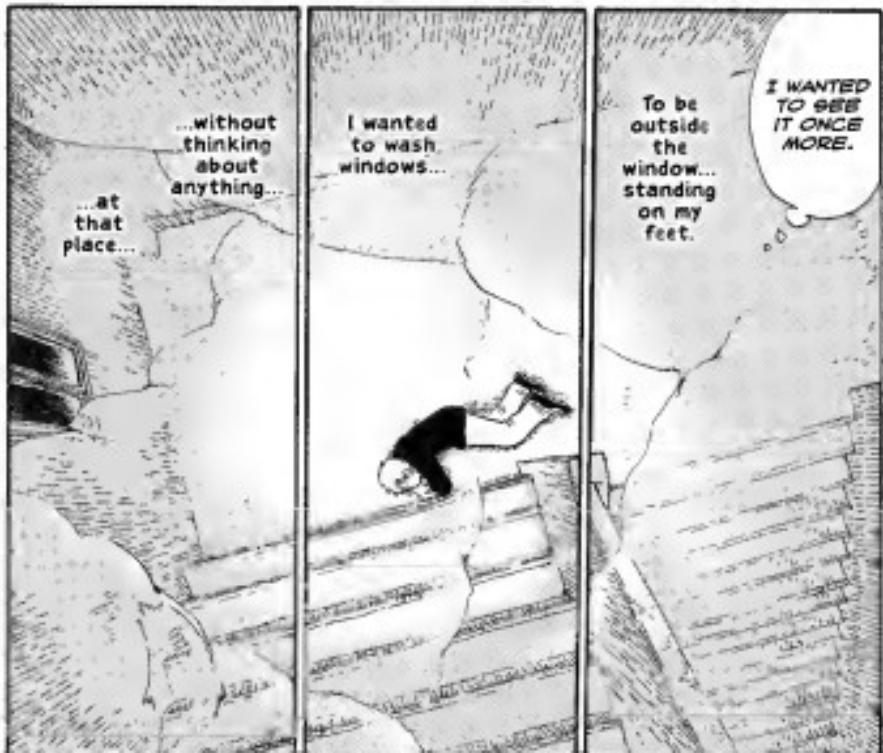












IF I FALL
ASLEEP, I'LL
HAVE THAT
DREAM
AGAIN...

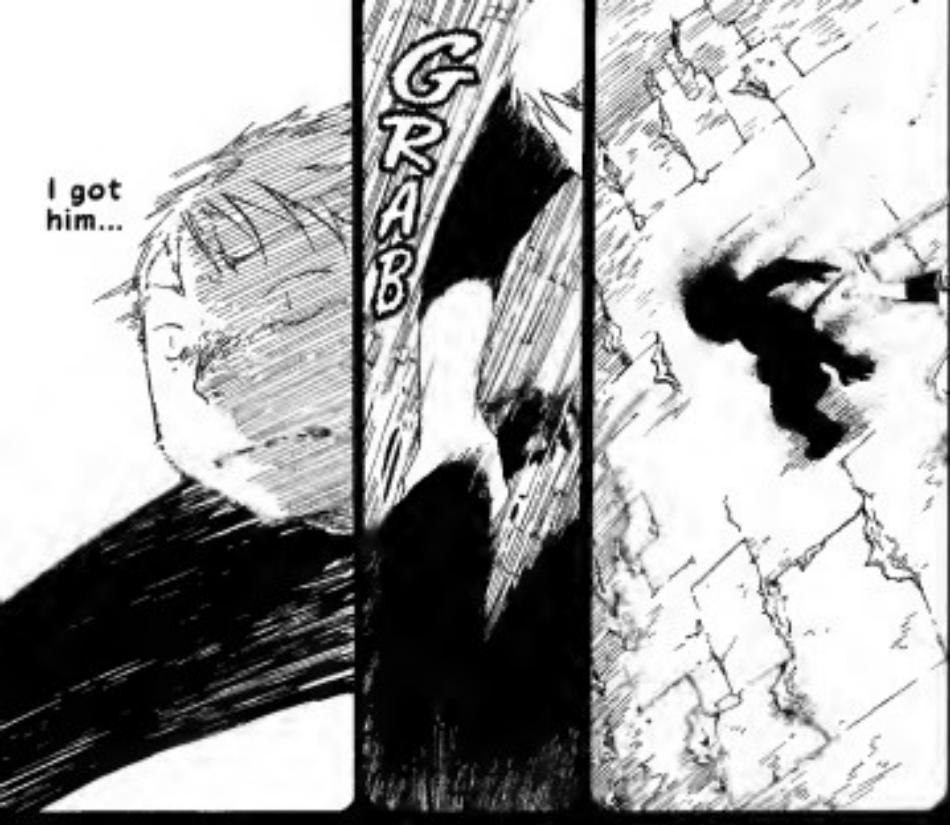
HAPPY
I'M
SLEEPY...

...MAYBE I
WON'T EVEN
DREAM
ANYMORE?

OR...

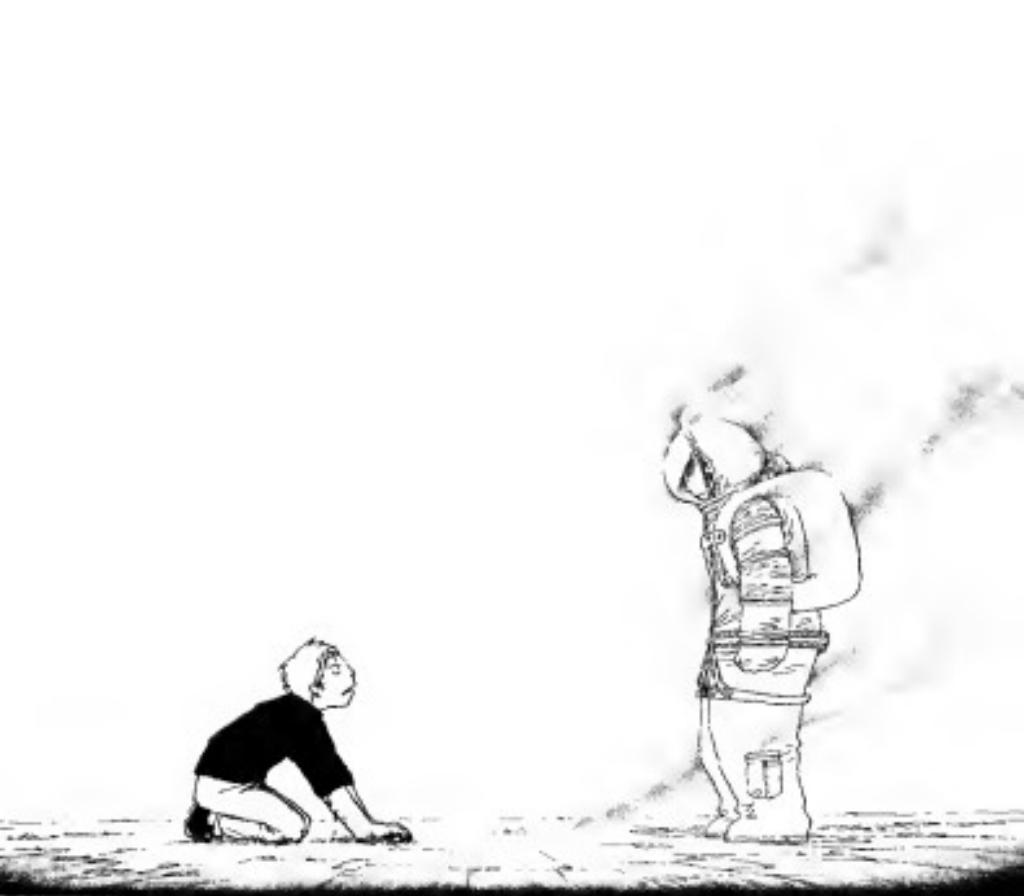


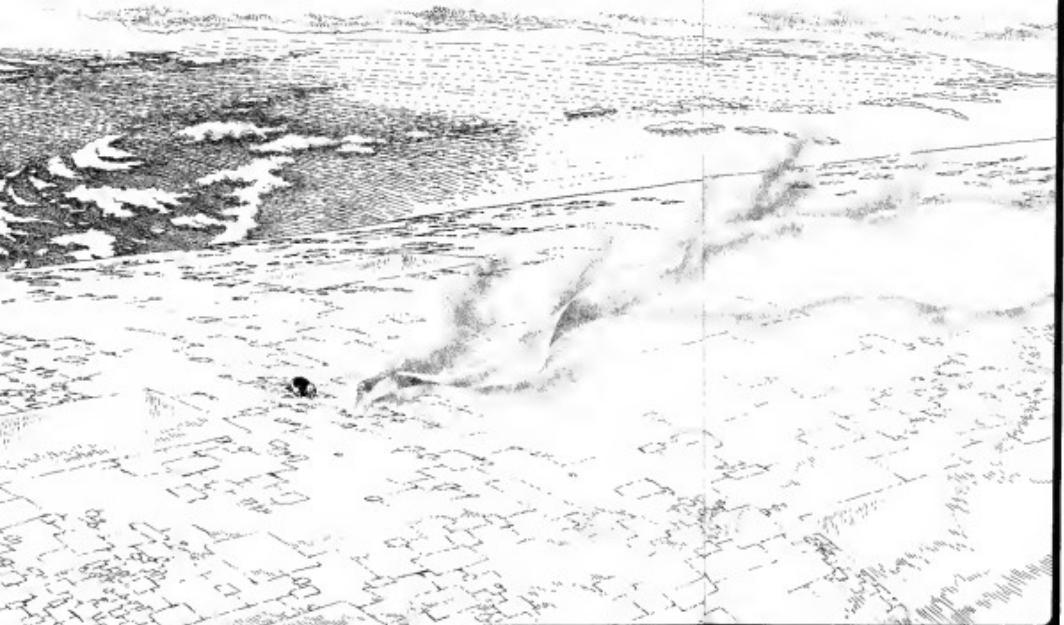
















THAT YOU
SHOULD RETURN.

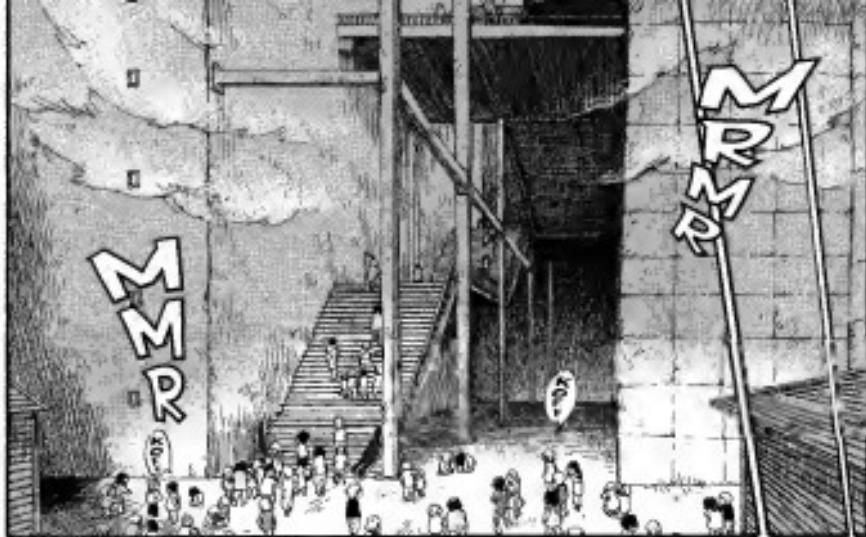
I'VE BEEN
SAVING THAT
FROM THE
BEGINNING.

OF COURSE
YOU CAN
COME BACK.

GOOD...

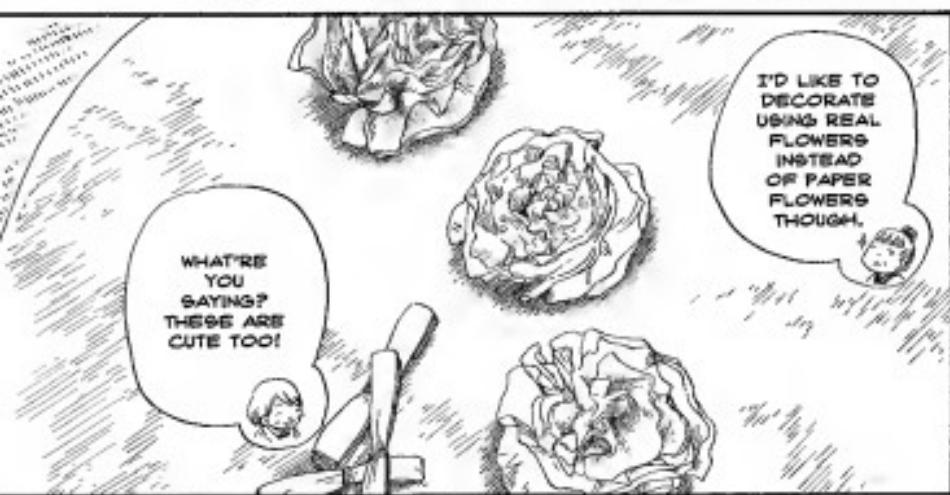
IS
THAT
SO.







in the loft



Thanks to Hirai, Eizumi, Kasai, Fumika, and to you, for reading.



THE END OF SATURN APARTMENTS 6

In the Next Volume

The Ring System, a structure constructed in space when Earth was abandoned as an environmental preserve, contains a society divided by money and status. Mitsu, a sixteen-year-old lower-level window washer whose father was killed when he fell from the surface of the Ring, struggles to define his role in this stifling and segregated civilization. Unsafe living conditions and unrest among the residents trouble the lower level, but Mitsu and his colleagues also struggle with loneliness and thwarted ambitions. In the final volume of *Saturn Apartments*, Mitsu must decide whether he will descend to the surface of the earth in an experimental device and attempt to change the fate of the Ring System forever.

saturn apartments



